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## Letters to the Editor

### *Newsbreak*

It was with bemusement that I read your April 12 editorial, "Anatomy of a Cop-Out," suggesting that news of the mining of Nicaraguan waters first appeared in the Washington Post "a few hours" after the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence had been briefed by the Administration. The Committee was briefed on the mining on January 31. The first news report of the mining appeared on April 6. Further, the news did not break in the Washington Post but in The Wall Street Journal.

It is inexcusable that editorial writers, who have the luxury of time to check their facts, do not bother to do so. If the Journal editorial staff put as much effort into being accurate and avoiding unfounded innuendo as they seem to put into apologetics for an insupportable policy against Nicaragua, they might soon begin to approach the professionalism of The Journal's reportorial staff.

EDWARD P. BOLAND (D., MASS.)  
Chairman, Intelligence Committee  
House of Representatives

Washington

(Rep. Boland is correct that the first news that the mining was conducted from a ship controlled by the CIA was reported last Friday by David Rogers of our own Washington bureau. Mr. Rogers' story followed up remarks on the Senate floor, though deleted from the official record, in which Sen. Barry Goldwater mentioned a document indicating that the administration had directly authorized the mining. Our error arose from the complaint of a well respected source that the leaks had come from the House Committee. — Ed.)